

**Rockville Environment Commission**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, July 14, 2009**  
**At the Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue**

**Attendance**

**Commissioners:** Faith Klareich, Steve Cardon, Christine Davidson-McCord, David Davis, Kris Dighe, Beri Kravitz, Dominique Lorang-Leins, and Tolu Odunlami

**Absent:** Seth Adams

**Guests:** Heather Gewandter, City of Rockville Environmental Management; Herb Winkler, Interested Resident; Donna Vincent Roa, Interested Resident

**Meeting Commencement**

The meeting was convened at 7:30 pm.

**Closed Session**

The Commission voted unanimously to go into closed session for further discussions of Commission leadership issues for the coming year. Faith Klareich will serve as chair through February 2010. Subject to Mayor and Council approval, Kris Dighe will assume the duties as chair at that time. In the interim, Mr. Dighe will serve as an informal vice chair.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the June 9, 2009 and June 18, 2009 meetings were reviewed and unanimously approved.

**Environmental Management Report by Heather Gewandter for Mark Charles**

*Deer Policy Re-examination*

Recreation and Parks is revisiting the City's Deer Management Policy and is specifically interested in the Commission's views on implementation. Steve Mader is scheduled to attend the September 8, 2009 Commission meeting and will explain the review process (both internal and external) at that time. The Commission indicated it was interested in having a representative on any task force that may be convened. A volunteer will be needed.

*Commission Retreat*

The Commission agreed to schedule a day-long strategic retreat on Saturday, August 29, 2009. The retreat will be held in the Cottage at Glenview Mansion from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm. Heather Gewandter of Environmental Management will serve as the facilitator.

*Personnel Changes*

Nate Wall has indicated he intends to resign his position with the City and move to Portland, Oregon in July 2009. He will continue working remotely from Oregon until September 4, 2009.

## **Committee Reports**

### *Sustainable Development and Energy Committee* (Christine Davidson-McCord)

The Committee discussed the current green building program proposal in detail with Nate Wall. To date, the Commission as a whole has not taken a position on the draft, although the Chair generally testified in favor of the proposal at the public hearing before the Mayor and Council on July 13, 2009. The Commission is considering preparing written comments on the draft before the close of the public comment period.

As part of this committee report, the Commission discussed its role in the design of City buildings and the review of other proposed structures in the City, particularly once the green building program is enacted into the City Code.

The Committee does not intend to meet in August so its next meeting will be in September.

### *Watershed Protection Committee*

Committee Chair Dighe noted that the Committee met on June 17, 2009 (third Wednesday of the month at 7:15 pm at 30 Courthouse Square). Lise Soukup of Environmental Management attended and led a substantial discussion of the proposed scope of the upcoming Cabin John Watershed study. Ms. Soukup also provided an overview of the stormwater related capital improvement projects (CIP) the City has planned for FY 2010. The Committee also received an update of the volunteer stream monitoring effort and the invasive species training being prepared by Environmental Management. The Committee is in the process of developing its FY 09 accomplishments and FY 2010 goals due to the City Clerk's Office by September 1, 2009.

Steve Cardon reminded the Commissioners that a stream-cleanup event should be scheduled for the Commission's adopted stream. Cardon will circulate several possible dates to the Commission by email.

Mr. Odunlami requested that Committee minutes be taken and that they be provided to the full Commission prior to their meetings.

### *Outreach and Education Committee*

The Committee met on July 8, 2009. The meeting was spent brainstorming ideas on visual aids and presentations for Rockville residents. During the discussion, comments and suggestions from the City's public information office (PIO) were reviewed. Items were identified that need to be purchased by Environmental Management.

The Committee requested other Commissioners review the draft Energy Conservation Brochure.

In addition, the rain barrel pump needs to be replaced.

A reminder was made that Commissioners should seek donations from area businesses whenever possible and that there is typically a long lead time needed to successfully obtain these donations.

### **New Business**

Rapid Requests for Third Party Endorsements – Commission needs to consider these situations and decide how it will respond, if at all. It was acknowledged that only the Mayor and Council speak on behalf of the City and its residents. The Commission can make recommendations for Mayor and Council action.

It was suggested that Commissioners receive training that orients new Commissioners to the City and explains expectations and restrictions, if any.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm

### **Next Commission Meeting**

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, August 29, 2009 at 9:30 am at Glenview Mansion Cottage, Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville, Maryland, 20851.**

### **Post-Meeting Action Items:**

- Commissioners to generally prepare for the Aug 29 retreat
- Commissioners to consider volunteering for the deer management workgroup
- Commissioners to consider whether to prepare specific written comments on the draft green building proposal (note the public comment period is likely to be extended until Mid January).
- Cardon to propose dates for stream clean up
- All three Committees are to keep basic minutes and provide them to other Commissioners
- Commissioners are to review and comments on the draft Energy Conservation Brochure
- Environmental Management to purchase a new rain barrel pump
- Environmental Management to explore new Commissioner training with the City Clerk.